

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Support for amended claim 1 can be found in claim 6. The applicant has incorporated formula (A) from claim 6 into claim 1. The applicant has deleted reference to formula (B).

Claims 6, 7, 19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10-14, 19, 21-23, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuura et al., US 2003/0157366 (Matsuura). Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21-25, 27, 28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Sato et al., US 2003/0218418 (Sato). Claims 5-7 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura. Claims 3, 5-9, 20, 24, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura and further in view of Ingarashi et al., US 2002/0048689 (Ingarashi). The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 6, 7, 19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The applicant has incorporated formula (A) from claim 6 into claim 1. The applicant has deleted reference to formula (B). The applicant has cancelled claim 6. This rejection is no longer applicable. With respect to claim 19, the applicant agrees with the Examiner's interpretation that the matrix material is a non-polymer and a non-salt and a non-coordination polymer. For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10-14, 19, 21-23, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuura. The applicant has incorporated formula (A) from claim 6 into claim 1. Claim 6 was not rejected over Matsuura. For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Over Sato

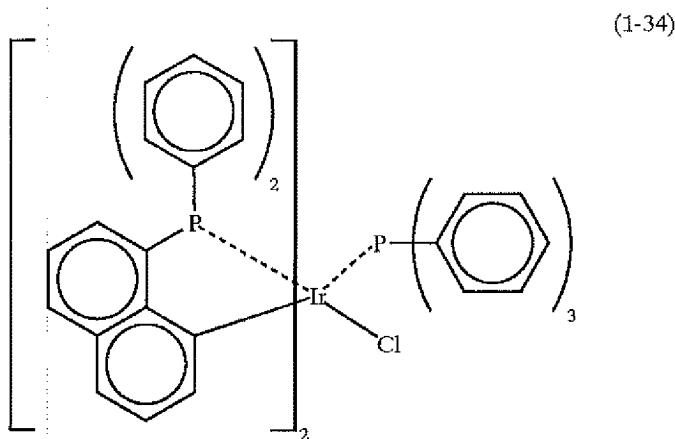
Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21-25, 27, 28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato. Sato discloses diphenylthiophene derivatives for use as a matrix material for a phosphorescent emitter. Sato discloses in paragraph no. [0132] that the organic metal complex contains a metal selected from Groups 7 to 11 of the periodic table. Sato does not disclose compounds of formula (A) based on phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, or bismuth. Phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, or bismuth are in Group 15 of the periodic table. Since, Sato does not teach Group 15 of the periodic table, let alone phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, or bismuth, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5-7 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura. Claims 3, 5-9, 20, 24, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura et al. and further in view of Ingarashi.

Matsuura disclose thiophene derivatives for use as a matrix material for a phosphorescent emitter. The Examiner is correct at page 10, paragraph no. 32 of the office action that Matsuura does not disclose compounds of formula (A) based on phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, or bismuth.

Regarding formula (A) (former claim 6, amended claim 1), the Examiner states that Igarashi disclose metal complexes having triarylphosphine ligands for use in organic electroluminescent devices. However, the Examiner is not correct that compound (I-34) (or any other compound disclosed by Igarashi) is embraced by formula (A) according to amended claim 1. Igarashi's compound (I-34) is as follows:



This would correspond to the formula M- X(Ar)₃ where M in compound (I-34) is Ir.

The applicant's formula (A) is defined as X(Ar)₃ wherein X is P, As, Sb or Bi and wherein Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system.

However, the applicant's formula (A) is not defined as a compound wherein the group X is coordinated to a metal M such as Ir, and therefore a compound M-X(Ar)₃ is not embraced by formula (A).

Therefore, even if it was obvious for the person skilled in the art to modify the emission layer of Matsuura to contain the metal complex taught by Igarashi, this would not result in an organic electroluminescent device according to amended claim 1 of the pending application. For the above reasons, these rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 14113-00042-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 29, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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